

# AMAA news

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**HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH - North Hollywood, CA**



Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Worcester, MA

## AMAA NEWS

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# Gather in His Name, Become His Church

Levon Filian

**T**he mission and service ministry of the AMAA is made possible through the Grace of God and by the gifts of individuals, churches, and other organizations committed to fulfilling the Great Commission - "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

For the past 95 years, the AMAA has remained faithful in preaching the Gospel of Good News by providing financial resources and leadership through schools, Christian camps, literature, prayer and leadership retreats, and yes in building, remodeling, and purchasing Churches and Centers where people come together to build the body of Christ, the real Church whose head is our Lord and Savior.



The Psalmist proclaims his desire to be in the dwelling place of the Lord. In Psalm 84:10 we read "better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere." In Psalm 122:1 the Psalmist says "I rejoiced with those who said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord." In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says "Where two or three people are gathered in my name, there I am with them."

The AMAA, within the last 4 years has helped in the remodeling, purchase and construction of 7 churches and centers in Armenia, 4 in the Near East, 3 in North America, and 3 in Europe.

In this issue, we invite you to join us in praising God for giving us the opportunity to build a dwelling place for Him, focusing on CHURCH and CENTERS, where believers and non believers will "Gather in His name, and become His Church."

Within the last year, this ministry was blessed as follows:

**Holy Trinity Armenian Church, North Hollywood, CA:** The AMAA helped in the purchase of this Church and School facilities, to secure the continued ministry they have been providing for the last 12 years. (See cover page)

**Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Worcester, MA:** The AMAA helped in the restoration of this church. This is the first Armenian Evangelical Church in North America (established in 1881), where the AMAA was founded in 1918.

**First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal:** The AMAA helped this church in some of the renovations of the church building.

**House of Hope, Yerevan, Armenia:** The AMAA purchased a house which was converted into a Church and Sunday School classrooms. (page 27)

**Dilijan, Armenia:** The AMAA purchased a land and is building a center,

to be completed by 12/31/14. (page 27)

**Gyumri, Armenia:** The AMAA has approved the plans to build a center with a hall, classrooms and a gymnasium. (page 27)

**France:** The AMAA helped to renovate two churches in France, one in Alfortville and the second one in Beaumont.

We thank all of you for your prayers and participation in our missions and ministries, and we ask you to join us lifting our voices to God, that these centers will be used to proclaim the Good News, where people will come to learn that they are called to be God's Temple, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's Temple and God's Spirit lives in you?" 1st Corinthians 3:16. □



# Praying for the Mission

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian

John Dickinson (1732-1808), who represented the state of Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress, wrote:

"In prayer we lift the work of the Gospel above mere circumstances and into the hands of the One who governs everything....even though the current messenger is locked up in chains."

We all are aware of the many challenges and difficult circumstances we face to share the Good News of the Gospel. Cultural and social situations today not only do not appreciate Christians and Christianity, but sometimes are against Christianity publicly. Some people are so occupied with their own thinking that they do not even want to hear about Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul was almost in the same situation, if not worse. What can we learn from him? In Colossians 4:2-4 he states, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..."

Our Lord Jesus Christ asked His disciples to pray many times, but the only time that Jesus explicitly tells His disciples what to pray for is in Matthew 9, a missional purpose prayer. "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Why is prayer so critical for mission?

It is absolutely critical, because the mission is God's mission. It is His Kingdom and He is the only one who can actually make salvation happen. We talk to people, we demonstrate Christianity (sometimes with error), we teach, we preach, and we invite people to the Kingdom of God. But it is God, through His Holy Spirit, who mysteriously works within the minds and hearts of people and they respond to Him.

In Mark 4, Jesus tells a parable. "The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and

rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; **he knows not how.**"

That is why each and every true Evangelist gives so much importance to prayer. Every single time Billy Graham preaches, there is a big crowd of Christians praying in a room at the same time. Billy Graham really understands Jesus and what He said in John 15:5, "apart from me, you can do nothing." We may do a lot of things in our lives, but not mission. Let's ask God to open the doors for us, to make our efforts fruitful.

What then shall we do?

Observing the disciples' example, first we need to get prepared for mission in prayer. We see this in Acts 1:12-14. "They returned to Jerusalem from the Mount Olive....all in one accord **were devoting themselves to prayer...**" We want to start each AMAA project, each AMAA committee meeting, Board meeting and event with a prayer. It shouldn't be just a routine obligation, but a true and genuine expression of faith and devotion, just like the disciples prayed.

Sometimes we get so busy to do our "assignments" in our daily routine that we either forget or neglect to pray. The Apostle Paul, the first experienced missionary to Europe, teaches his disciple, the young pastor Timothy, to pray. "First of all, then, pray..." 1Timothy 2:1. Paul, the praying missionary, urged the churches to pray for him over and over again. "Pray for me." This is found in Romans 15:30, Colossians 4:3, 1Thessalonians 5:25 and in many other passages in the Bible.

The AMAA, as a missionary organization, kindly asks you to pray for us, especially for God to intervene so that the AMAA through all of our projects will invite people to the Kingdom of God. □





# Zaven Khanjian Appointed New Executive Director/CEO of AMAA

**D**r. Joseph Zeronian, President of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), announced the appointment of Zaven Khanjian as the new Executive Director/CEO of the Association effective September 1, 2014.

Mr. Khanjian was born and raised in Aleppo, Syria. He grew up in the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church and was an active member of its youth group.

After his graduation from Aleppo College, Mr. Khanjian attended the American University of Beirut, Lebanon and in 1967 earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Soon after his graduation he moved to the Persian Gulf and for 13 years worked in his profession assuming top positions in prestigious companies, while creating "Little Armenias" together with like-minded Armenians in the area.

In 1979, Mr. Khanjian moved with his family to California and after working for a few years in his profession, went into the real estate business starting his own successful company, Kanjyan Realty in Glendale, CA, in 1987.

Over the years, Mr. Khanjian has been an active member of the Greater Los Angeles Community serving in leadership capacities at the Armenia Fund, The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, The Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, The United Armenian

Congregational Church, Haigazian University of Beirut, the Glendale Family YMCA, The Salvation Army-Glendale Corps, Americans for Artsakh, The Armenian American Real Estate Association and lately as the Chairman of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund, raising over \$1,000,000.

Mr. Khanjian has contributed volumes of bilingual articles to American Armenian media and is the author of three Armenian books.

Mr. Khanjian is married to Sona Kelligian and is the father of three children, Vasken, Hrag and Vana, and grandfather of five boys.

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian will continue in his current role as Interim Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA through October, 2014 to facilitate a smooth transition. Rev. Melkonian will resume his responsibility as Pastor to Pastors in Armenia, giving leadership and assistance to AMAA ministers in Armenia for half of the year and on assignments as Field Director in the United States and Canada for the remaining half year.

"The Board of Directors of the AMAA is pleased to appoint Mr. Zaven Khanjian, as he has demonstrated his devotion and worked tirelessly to enhance the well-being of our Armenian people," said Dr. Zeronian. "We know that his management experience will help advance the work of the AMAA in the 24 countries we service around the world." □

## AMAA to Hold 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Paramus, NJ

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the Headquarters of the Association, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. Participants in the meeting will review both the activities and the financial reports of the Association.

In conjunction with the AMAA Annual Meeting, the Armenian Evangelical World Council will have its meetings on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17 and the Board of Directors of the AMAA will meet on Friday evening to report on activities and discuss future plans.

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at Double Tree By Hilton, 2117 Route 4 East, Fort Lee, New Jersey. The Keynote Speaker of the program will be Rev. George R. Carey, World Outreach Director of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Banquet will also feature Soprano Shoushanik Barousmian who has been performing both in the United States and Europe since 2010.

The Annual Meeting Worship of Praise will be held on Sunday, October 19, at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. Participants will praise God for AMAA and its service in 24 countries around the world. The service will also include a moment of remembrance dedicated to those AMAA members who concluded their earthly pilgrimage during the past year and joined the heavenly audience. The service will conclude with the installation of the newly elected Board Members.



# The United Church of Christ and Armenian Evangelicals A Partnership of 160 Years

Dr. Peter Makari\*

**W**hen El Salvador was hit by a massive earthquake in 2001, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) responded with an appeal, and contributed to relief through the United Church of Christ. When a major cyclone devastated Myanmar in 2008, the AMAA raised funds to offer relief aid, and again sent its response through the UCC. These are just two examples of the ways that the global vision of mission and relationships, shared by the AMAA and the UCC, have become manifest in caring for God's people and creation. The AMAA and the United Church of Christ (UCC) enjoy a strong working partnership that supports ministry and common partners in the Middle East and Armenia, and that is grounded in the very history of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of Christ's global mission ministry, is the current name of what was the first global mission board established in the United States, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). The ABCFM's first missionary was sent in 1810 to Ceylon (today's Sri Lanka); its first missionaries in the Middle East were sent in 1819. Since those times, Congregational mission focused heavily in Anatolia, where the missionaries encountered, and worked closely with Armenians. Those missionaries brought Protestant ideas of church and witness, which were appealing to some of the Armenians they encountered. The Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), has said that the American Board missionaries "midwifed" the birth of the Armenian Protestant church. Armenian Protestantism, therefore, began in Anatolia, and has since spread throughout the Middle East, Europe, North America, and elsewhere.

Those decades of interaction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, up until World War I, were a time of rapid growth of the Congregational mission work, during which many schools were established in Anatolia, serving mostly Armenians. The War marked one of the most challenging and tragic times in Armenian history, the Genocide, which claimed the lives of more than one and a half million people, and displaced many others to what is today Syria and Lebanon, Egypt, and beyond. American Board missionaries were among those who documented the events and

advocated for international intervention to provide relief. The United Church of Christ continues to mark April 24 as Armenian Martyrs' Day, to commemorate those who perished. In 1981, the UCC's Executive Council, acting on behalf of the Church's governing body, acted to "extend to the Armenian people...deep sympathy and understanding in regard to the genocidal persecution experienced by this people in the early decades of this century. And further, the Executive Council requests [efforts to promote] positive steps toward justice in the historical account and toward peace and reconciliation in this matter."

Motivated further to continue to work together, and despite the massive displacement of Armenians in the 1910s, the ABCFM and the AMAA entered into an agreement in 1927 to provide for cooperation in "**work among and through the Armenian people throughout the world.**" That agreement was replaced with a new one, which took effect in 1950, "**to make more effective the co-operative work being carried on among and through Armenians in the area of the Near East Mission of the American Board.**" This 1950 agreement established the Cooperative Committee for Armenian Missions (CCAM), which continues to meet annually to this day.

Over the course of time, the AMAA and the ABCFM (which in 1957 was re-named the United Church Board for World Mission when the United Church of Christ was formed, and again re-named in 2000 as Wider Church Ministries), have continued to function and engage in mission. The CCAM has evolved to become a forum for mutual sharing and engagement, for discussion of possible cooperation and collaboration and, primarily, for decision making on the use of the Donchian Fund.

John B. Donchian of Manhattan established a Foundation Fund in his will, dated February 6, 1919. The Fund, to be administered by the ABCFM, was designated to be "expended in the City of Diarbekar [*sic.*], Asia Minor... and also in the cities of Mardon [*sic.*] and Harpout, Asia Minor for the charitable, educational, religious or eleemosynary purposes of asylums, hospitals, schools and churches in said cities." Following





the Armenian Genocide, which began four years before Mr. Donchian wrote his will, the number of Armenians in Anatolia was drastically reduced. Many Armenians who survived established a community in Aleppo, Syria, and Armenians are spread throughout the Middle East (and the world). After 1994, the AMAA and the UBCWM agreed that the income from the Donchian Fund would be available for use in the Republic of Armenia, following its independence after the breakup of the Soviet Union, as well as with programs of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, a common partner of the AMAA and the UCC, which is based in Beirut, Lebanon, and serving communities throughout the region but especially in Syria and Lebanon. Over the years, this Fund has supported extensive work of the AMAA in Armenia and, among other programs, urgent educational needs in Syria and Lebanon among all Armenians.

During the past three years, the world's attention has been on the ongoing tragic war in Syria. Naturally, as we seek peace and resolution to the conflict, we recognize the impact the crisis has had on the people of Syria, including the Armenian community. More than 130,000 people have been killed, and over 9 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes and are in need of humanitarian assistance. Almost 100 years ago, the Armenians experienced a major trauma as a people; many of the survivors resettled in Syria, and are today experiencing another major human disaster. The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East is among the partners that the United Church of Christ and Global Ministries have supported in Kessab and in Syria more generally as it responds to the deep need for basic assistance. Such a response comes because of the UCC's long-standing relationships in the Middle East, including with the Armenian community, and our theological understanding of who our neighbor is, and responsibility toward our neighbor, whoever and wherever they may be. The UCC seeks justice, peace, and comfort for victims of conflict.

In my capacity as Executive for the Middle East and Europe with the UCC and Global Ministries, I frequently travel to the Middle East to nurture our partner relationships and to visit our mission personnel. Such visits have afforded me the chance to get to know leaders in the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East personally, as well. It has given me the chance to see the vibrant witness of the Union in Lebanon and Syria, and of Haigazian University, both of which we support, particularly in educational programs and scholarships. We are proud of those historic relationships and the deep engagement that has taken place over the years. The importance of our relationship was pronounced by the UCC's General Synod in 1997, in a resolution entitled, "Affirmation of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East as a Partner in Mission." That resolution "[gave] thanks for the faithful witness of a church that has lived under the cross and has lived out the resurrection;" and "encourage[d]

our churches and members to become aware of the historical association of our church with the Armenian people, the first Christian nation, a people who have lived out the drama of suffering and rebirth to the glory of God, and calls upon our church to manifest our love for and partnership with the Armenian Evangelical Church through shared mission and shared life."

We are grateful for the AMAA leadership provided by Dr. Steven Aharonian, former AMAA Board President, Levon Filian and Harout Nercessian, for their spirit of cooperation in a joint ministry. In addition to the joint ministries and missions, a practical step was taken two years ago to build a closer working relationship when Gabrielle Worley from UCC moved to Yerevan to work in the AMAA headquarters to help in the Child Sponsorship Programs and teach English at the Avedisian School. This gave Gabriella an opportunity to witness the work of the AMAA firsthand and to experience and participate with the Armenian people in their joys and struggles.

This past fall, I had the privilege to visit Armenia. I had the opportunity to meet Harout Nercessian and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, and several of the leadership team in Armenia. I was warmly welcomed by all and was treated to the rich culture of the country with its great and enduring Christian heritage.

Because of our longstanding relationships in Christ—in Anatolia, in the Middle East, and in Armenia—the United Church of Christ and Global Ministries have much to appreciate in partnership with Armenian Evangelicals. With the Union, Haigazian, and the AMAA, we share a special bond of history, of concern for peace and justice in the world, of compassion and care for God's people, and a faith in God that our participation in God's mission can effect positive change. May such a witness—in mutual accompaniment—endure! □

\*Dr. Peter Makari is area Executive for Middle East and Europe Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



# Presbyterian Church (USA) Adopts Resolution on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armenian Genocide

Rev. Dr. Vartkes M. Kassouni

**O**n June 20, 2014, some 600 commissioners to the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in Detroit, Michigan and adopted with near unanimity a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide and adopting the 2015 Church Calendar designating Sunday, April 26 as the day for its observance. It also directed the Church's Mission Agency to prepare educational and liturgical resources for member churches in preparation for this event.

This historic resolution, which was the first of its kind for a major American church body, was adopted by the 1.8 million member church. It originated in the local presbyteries of Los Ranchos (Anaheim), California, Chicago, and Palisades, New Jersey, and then sent on to the national body for adoption.

Two overtur advocates, who played a vital role in this regard, were the Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian (Chicago Presbytery), and the Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni (Los Ranchos Presbytery). Dr. Chakoian is the Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, Illinois; and Dr. Kassouni is retired, and at present the Parish Associate, Tustin Presbyterian Church, Tustin, California.

Central to the development and writing of the resolution (called an overture) was the staff of the Jinishian Memorial Program (Eliza Minassian, Director, and Cara Taylor, Coordinator), and the World Mission Agency of the PC (USA), Greg Allen-Pickett, General Manager of Operations. Assisting the Rev. Drs. Chakoian and Kassouni was the Rev. Fr. Garabed Kocharian, Pastor of St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, Michigan. They spoke on June 16 before the Peacemaking and International Relations Committee, which had to hear, debate, and approve and then send it on to the plenary session for final adoption. Their presentations were coordinated, first in an "open hearing" where Dr. Chakoian and Rev. Kocharian spoke, and then in the action phase where Dr. Kassouni spoke calling on

the Assembly to take this historic step and recognize the massacres of 1.5 million as "the first Genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

In summary, this overture includes four key points in it:

**One**, urges member congregations to recognize the Armenian Genocide; express deep sympathy to the Armenian people and designate April 24 every year as the day of remembrance, and honors the provisions of American and international law in this regard.

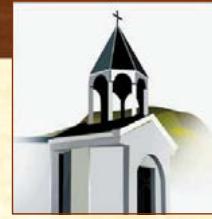
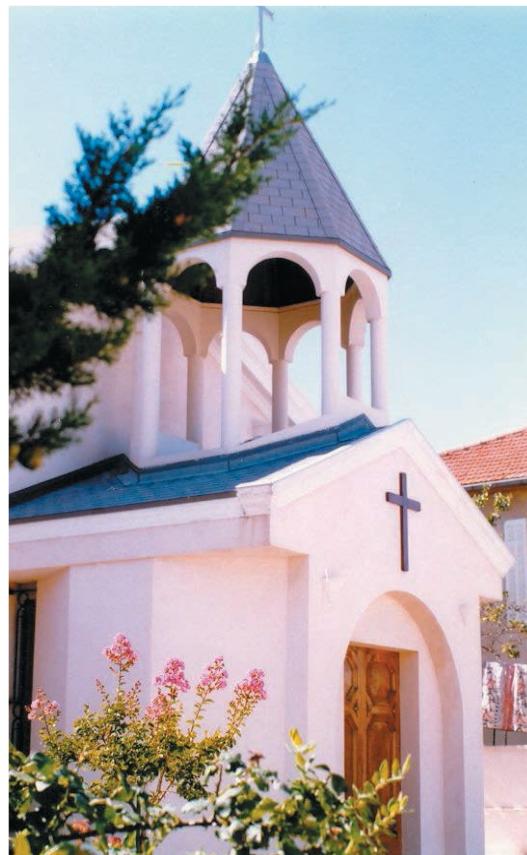
**Two**, supports the designation of "Genocide" for the death of 1.5 million Armenians and the expulsion of 1 million more from the Ottoman Empire in the years 1915-1923.

**Three**, directs the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to call on the President and the Congress of the United States of America to recognize and condemn the death and expulsion of the Armenians; to communicate this resolution to our ecumenical partners nationally and internationally.

**Four**, directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to encourage appropriate observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide (subsequently choosing April 26, 2015) in our churches, with accompanying educational and cultural forms of remembrance, noting the important role played in this endeavor by the Jinishian Memorial Program.

This resolution had great support on the part of the Committee during its hearings and action. The Plenary Session affirmed their recommendation and adopted it with no opposition. This was a rare occasion when three Armenian clergy (two Protestant and one Apostolic), stood together in strong cooperative witness and support on behalf of our Armenian people. This process took a long time, starting back in January of this year, and working its way up to the General Assembly in June. It's a great tribute to cooperative, consistent, intelligent, and dedicated effort on behalf of our Armenian people, past and present. □





# THE BEAUMONT ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

*God's faithfulness  
from generation to generation*

*A brief History of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont (Marseille), and those who served the Lord through this Ministry.*

The largest Armenian community in Marseille France live in Beaumont, Saint-Julien, and La Rosière districts. Most Armenian Evangelicals live in the La Rosière neighborhood. In May 1926, at the home of Aroussig Atamian, the first prayer meetings were held led by Anna Djezmedjian, and later by Brother Badakian and Sister Flora Kerestejian.

In 1929, Pastor Krikor Khayiguian arrived in Beaumont and started organizing prayer meetings, Sunday School classes and Armenian language classes. All these meetings were held at the home of Deguirmendjian brothers.

In 1933, Pastor Khayiguian was appointed as the Pastor of the church in Valence. The spiritual work was then continued by Pastor Hovanès Ghazarossian and Brother Badakian. On July 10, 1939, the first stone was laid for the Church in Rosière district.

During WWII many Armenian Evangelicals settled in Beaumont. In 1942, Pastor Arakel Papazian served as the church pastor. From 1943-1947 Pastor Zacharie Boudakian carried out the ministry.

In 1949, the Union invited Pastor Khayiguian to move from Paris to Beaumont and serve as their pastor. Esther Demirdjian was asked to oversee the Sunday School classes. Meanwhile, she assisted Pastor Samuel Bakalian who at that time



was the editor of Panper, the Monthly News Magazine of the Union.

As of 1958 the following ministers have served as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont: Pastor Samuel Bakalian (1958-1974), Rev. Jean Agopian (1974-1983), Rev. Jean-Daniel Sahagian (1983-1989), Rev. Jacques Tchoghandjian (1989-1990), Rev. Joel Mikaelian (1990-2003), Rev. Gilbert Léonian (2003 to present).

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont is a vibrant church. Currently about 100 people attend Church services every Sunday. The Church has a Sunday School, Youth Group activities, Women's Group activities, Vacation Bible Schools, weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings both in French and Armenian languages.

The Church also has the Ani Cultural Center where they hold concerts, conferences and other cultural activities. The Church also supports six different missions, such as the mission of their Union, Hope for Armenia, AMAA, Witness to the Muslim, Open Door etc. With the involvement of the church members, the "Panper" magazine is printed and mailed to 3,000 people in 50 countries around the world. The Church also participates in a weekly Christian Radio Program. □

# THANK YOU!

With your prayers and financial support the AMAA has been able to assist many refugees when they were forced to flee Kessab. Now, upon the recent liberation of Kessab, many of our brothers and sisters are beginning to return home, yet they face many challenges in restoring and rebuilding their lives.

*Please Consider Helping!*

MISSAKIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN KESSAB



BEFORE



AFTER

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN KESSAB



BEFORE



AFTER

**DONATE ONLINE TODAY at [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) or send to: AMAA 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Credit Cards accepted via telephone: (201) 265-2607 Email: [info@amaa.org](mailto:info@amaa.org) - Memo all gifts for: Kessab Relief**

# CALL TO SAVE ARMENIANS IN ALEPPO



*The situation in Aleppo, Syria has grown much worse. Dozens of mortar bombs have damaged or completely destroyed buildings in the predominantly Armenian neighborhoods of Nor Kyugh and Suleimanieh. Many Armenian occupied and owned buildings and businesses have been destroyed and abandoned. The churches and schools are no longer safe to occupy.*

All Armenians worldwide are asked to come to the rescue with their prayers and financial support. Please make every effort to support this cause by sending your generous contributions to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. You can also make a donation with your credit card on line at [amaa.org](http://amaa.org) or call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607. All donations are tax deductible and will be fully used to help our brothers and sisters in Aleppo, Syria.

*The Armenian Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical Church leaders visit damaged and destroyed Armenian neighborhood in Nor Kyugh area.*





# Fundraiser Event for Haigazian University Syrian Armenian Students Features Joyce Naltchayan Boghosian

The Haigazian University Alumni Association and the Haigazian Women's Auxiliary held a joint fundraising event to support Armenian students who fled from Syria and found a safe haven studying at Haigazian University in Beirut.

The luncheon fundraising event was held on June 22nd at the Lakeside Golf Club in Toluca Lake, California. All who attended, including Haigazian University (HU) Board members, alumni, philanthro-

pists, clergy, government officials and friends, were painfully aware of the situation in Syria and the dire need to help displaced students. They had come to show their support and to give generously.

The program was very informative, educational and exciting. Dr. Ani Darakjian, Chair of the HU Board of Trustees, welcomed all and provided an informative report. A video chat between displaced students and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of HU, was presented.

The featured guest for the event was Joyce Naltchayan Boghosian, a noted White House Photographer, who followed in the footsteps of her late father, White House Photographer, Harry Naltchayan. Her Power Point presentation

gave an exclusive glimpse into her world of privilege and the pressure she encounters capturing important historic events in foreign settings, in the White House or while traveling with the President on Air Force One.

We are grateful to all those who showed their support by attending this event and for making generous donations to help the displaced Syrian Armenian students attending Haigazian. □



*Joe and Joyce Stein talk with some of the Syrian Armenian students at Haigazian University.*



*Haigazian University Alumni Board with Joyce Naltchayan Boghosian (fourth from left).*

## → Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA Donates \$1,800 for AMAA's Syrian Relief

The Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, Massachusetts, holds a Fair each year as a major fundraiser for the Church, and also designates 10% of its proceeds to a worthy charity. This year the Church chose the AMAA's Syrian Relief and sent a check for \$1,800 to the AMAA.

Fair Chair Carol Koundakjian Trio noted in her letter to the AMAA, "Our congregation has deep connections to the Armenian community in Syria, and we pray for the many Armenian families displaced as a result of the civil war there."

The Armenian Memorial Church's Pastor Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian noted, "Once again this year's Fair was an all-church successful event due to everyone's participation, cooperation and efforts. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him as we serve our church members, friends and community, and appreciate everyone's sincere contribution and support."

*Angel Parseghian and Sona Ashjian oversee sales at the delicacies table under the tent.*





**F**or the sixth year in a row, Dr. Al and Sue Phillips have led a group of Medical Professionals and volunteers on a 10 day Medical Mission trip to Armenia. This year the group was quite large with 40 volunteers and 6 Armenian translators. The team consisted of 3 physicians, 1 physician assistant, 4 nurses, 1 dentist, 1 lab technician and many willing workers. The majority of the team members arrived in Yerevan on June 19, 2014 and spent the weekend touring the city and outlying areas. They also attended the Sunday Worship Service at the Evangelical Church of Armenia on Baghramyan Street in Yerevan.

The first two days the clinic was set up in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Vanadzor, where patients came from Tumanyan, Spitak, Shirakamut, Gyumri, Dilijan, Ijevan, and Alaverdi.

Following Vanadzor, the team travelled to Stepanavan and set up the clinic in the AMAA social services center and Evangelical Church in Stepanavan.

Each patient that came through the clinic entered through the triage section. First the patient's vital signs were obtained and urine screened for diabetes and kidney disorders. The patient's medical history was obtained by our nurses and medical students. If necessary, an EKG or lab work was obtained. From triage, the patient was sent to the physicians. Here each was examined and medications prescribed. They then went to the pharmacy where their prescriptions were filled and were consulted on how to

properly take the medication. While the patients waited, lectures on medical topics were given by our nurse educator and they were educated on smoking cessation, diabetes and proper eating. This year we had with us a dentist who educated and treated with fluoride the children and young adults. As in the past, reading glasses were also distributed to those with poor vision. This year the Team reached an all-time high record for number of patients



Dr. Al Phillips in consultation with a patient in Vanadzor.



seen by physicians: 1,005. If included those seen by the dentist and those who just wanted glasses, over 1,250 patients were impacted in the one week.

The mission trip doesn't only emphasize the physical needs of the patients, but also the spiritual. During the clinic, church services were also held where patients were invited to attend to hear God's Word and the testimonies of the team members.

At the conclusion of the week, the Team returned to Yerevan via Lake Sevan and went to Echmiadzin and Khor Virap and had a celebration banquet, recounting the miraculous ways how God worked among the people the Team members saw and how God touched the team members personally as they served those seen.

This year there were some exciting advances in the Team's ability to care for the patients. First, a very generous donation was received to purchase an EKG machine and two professional quality blood pressure machines. Second, over the last year, the AMAA staff in Armenia had scanned all the medical records of patients seen over the past five years. Surveying these records it was surprising to know that up until this year over 2,500 people had received medical treatment. With this year's mission, that number exceeds 3,500.

The Medical Mission Team has been blessed to have an operating budget from the AMAA to purchase medications to provide a one year supply to the patients.



*The vital signs station.*



*Dr. Barbara Tashjian with a dental patient.*

The Team will return to Armenia in June 2015 for their seventh mission trip. Please consider monetarily supporting this mission. All donations are specifically used for purchasing supplies and medications. If you want to serve, it is not required that you are a medical professional, but that you only have a servant's heart. To get more information and an application, please see the link to the Medical Mission website on the left column at [amaa.org](http://amaa.org). □



*The Pharmacists station.*



*Dr. Kevin Kevorkian with a patient.*

*Patients being checked for vision and eyeglasses.*

# The Avedisian School

## Will Be the First Certified Green Building in Armenia



*Edward Avedisian receives the LEED certification.*

**Yerevan, Armenia (UNDP)** - The Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia district will be a landmark "green" building and the first international LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building in Armenia.

The Avedisian School is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and Edward Avedisian, a Trustee at the American University of Armenia and a member of the AMAA Board of Directors. The state of the art school, when it opens in September 2014, will provide a quality education to 570 Armenian students, who will be able to see, feel and move around in a sustainable design and a low-carbon footprint building.

On June 3, UNDP organized an event showcasing the application of cutting-edge energy saving technologies and environmental standards in the school. Bradley Busetto, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia, Narek Sargsyan, Minister of Urban Development, and Edward Avedisian were joined by Ambassadors,

representatives of the diplomatic community, government and the private sector to visit the construction site and to get familiarized and get first-hand information about the environmental benefits of clean technologies and energy efficient solutions applied in the building.

"For UNDP, applying energy efficiency in buildings is critical for Armenia to meet its climate change commitments and to achieve a low-carbon development path. This is an ambitious but achievable goal, which is becoming increasingly affordable with the rapid advance of innovative technologies. We have supported the school as a strategically important project for Armenia, since the country has an immense potential for development of energy efficient technologies and alternative energy sources in the various sectors of economy," said Bradley Busetto, UN RC/UNDP RR in Armenia.

UNDP provided a grant for thermal insulation as well as technical expertise including bringing in ideas from the new "green" UN City Building in Copenhagen, Denmark to learn from the experience of its design and construction. □



*Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in its last phase of construction.*



*RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan visits the new Avedisian School and Community Center under construction.*



# Avedisian School Graduation Filled With Patriotic Spirit

The Year End Program and Graduation Ceremonies of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School of Yerevan, Armenia were held on June 6 at the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Headquarters in Yerevan. With a theme of "My Fatherland, I am a pulse of your arm," the Program was full of patriotic spirit. During the Program the words that were uttered from the mouths of the children many times were "I am Armenian." The students recited poems dedicated to their Fatherland and the Armenian people. They thanked the benefactors and the teachers at the School for the quality education at the Avedisian School. A video, depicting the successes of the 15 year old School and the construction of the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center, was presented.

At the end of the Program, School Principal Melania Geghamyan, with the help of Benefactors Edward and



Pamela Avedisian, distributed the diplomas to the graduating classes.

The guests departed with plans to meet again next school year in the new Avedisian School. □



# Merdinian School Holds Graduation Ceremonies

Helen Haig

## MERDINIAN STUDENTS SAY "THANK YOU!"

We have good reason to be excited about our Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, and our most recent Graduation Ceremonies for 2014. Our students demonstrated notable academic achievement, and just as importantly, their comments during their graduation showed a real maturity. They reflected the values that we as Armenian Evangelicals hold dear.

As fifth grade Valedictorian Rebecca Kassardjian put it so well -- "... our success is your success, for you have given us courage to dare, the knowledge to pursue excellence, and the belief we can succeed. ... You had, and have shown us faith when we doubted . . . ."

As eighth grade Valedictorian Dylan Bouchakhian said with such clarity "... over the years Merdinian has truly become my second home. . . I love Merdinian and most importantly I will never forget the amazing experiences I have had."

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION

On June 13, our eighth graders and both sections of fifth grade took the stage to receive their diplomas from Principal Lina Arslanian. The graduates

sang the National Anthems in Armenian and English. Rev. Kevork Terian opened the program with a prayer as well as gave a heartfelt message to the graduates. Eloquent poems were recited in English and Armenian by fifth and eighth graders. Mrs. Victoria Abrahamian-Elyasi led the choir in beau-

tiful songs. The eighth graders also made a presentation with Biblical verses and enchanted the audience by singing "Jesus Thank You." Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Board Chairman, and Principal Lina Arslanian addressed the students, parents, friends and teachers. The fifth grade valedictory speeches were given by Rebecca Kassardjian, Lark Kabakian and Natali Balekyan. The eighth grade salutatorian and valedictorian speeches were given by Marianna Petrosyan and Dylan Bouchakhian, respectively. The program concluded

**C&E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School  
8th Grade Graduation**



with Rev. Terian's Benediction and singing of the Lord's Prayer. A banquet, hosted by the PTO, was held at the Raymond and Annie Kouyoumjian Hall in Glendale.

## KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

On June 7, our kindergartners put on their caps and gowns and marched, with great exuberance and enthusiasm, on stage to celebrate the completion of their year in Kindergarten. The graduation was held in Merdinian's Derian-Boolghorjian Hall. We thank the teachers and all the parents

who devoted their time and effort for this wonderful program. We also thank Rev. David Azizian for his prayers and message.

To our graduates we say "You're welcome." We wish each of our graduates ongoing success. We pray for God's protection and guidance for them every step of the way forward. □





**O**n Friday, June 27, 139 students proudly earned their undergraduate and graduate degrees, at Haigazian University's Commencement exercises.

MP Hagop Pakradouni represented the Speaker of the Parliament, H.E. Mr. Nabih Berry. Whereas, the President of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr. Tammam Salam was represented by the Minister of Information, Mr. Ramzi Jreige. Among the attendees were MPs Walid Joumblat and his spouse Noura, Jean Oghasabian, Bassem Shabb, Rev. Selim Sahyouni, and the Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church Bishop Shahe Panossian and 1,200 guests including

community leaders, representatives of educational institutions, and members of the Board of Trustees, parents, relatives and friends.

The Ceremony began with a celebratory processional march by faculty and students, led by Chief Marshall Dr. David Tawil, followed by the Lebanese National Anthem and the Prayer of Invocation offered by Campus Minister Rev. Bruce Schoup.

In his speech, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian addressed the Class of 2014, and focused on the concept of "today's educated person." "Being educated means to capture and process the larger picture on the one hand, but at the

same time it means being captured with the deeper picture of life. It is science and faith, mind and heart, rest and work, all together," Dr. Haidostian stated.

Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East congratulated the graduates on their achievements and challenged them to be open to new possibilities with a vision to improve themselves and the world they live in.

The Valedictorian Lori Agopian, a candidate for a Bachelor degree in Business Administration, hailed Haigazian University for its diverse student body and the virtue of tolerance. She said, "We realize how important tolerance is especially in a diverse community. But here, we learned how to master diversity, how to accept others regardless of their differences, how to look beyond what can be seen and to realize that we all are one, serving for one purpose and institution."

Enas Hasan, a candidate for a Bachelor degree in Biology, spoke about the multi-culturism at Haigazian University, as a reflection of the real Lebanese society. She urged her fellow graduates to really live and apply the coexistence and mutual respect learned on campus in real life, thus preserving the national unity of their country, Lebanon.

The Graduation Ceremony ended by the Benediction of Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, after which the graduates threw their caps high into the air, as colorful balloons flew overhead. □



# Year-End Programs and Graduation Ceremonies of

*Since its inception, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been a strong advocate of education. It has provided moral, spiritual and financial support to Evangelical Schools in the Near East ranging from kindergarten to high school, to institutions of higher learning. These schools have been instrumental in shaping the character of thousands of Armenian students who have been productive citizens and who have served their communities as pastors, teachers, lay and community leaders.*

*The month of June was filled with year-end Programs and Graduations in all of the Armenian Evangelical Schools in the Near East – Lebanon, Syria and Greece. Congratulations to all our graduates!*



The Commencement Exercises of the **Y. & M. Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College** (Beirut, Lebanon) took place on June 25. The guest speaker was Aharon Shkhrdemian. Prizes were distributed, the School's Dzirani Choir sang, the valedictorians spoke respectively in Armenian and Arabic. School Principal Dr. Zaven Messerlian distributed the diplomas and addressed the graduates. Exemplary student medals were given to Meghri Bagdoyan and Araz Demirjian. A teacher of long service Dr. Armen Urneshlian received a medal "Ambassador of the Maternal Language" from the Ministry of Diaspora of Armenia.



The joint Commencement Exercises for the 6th and 12th graders at the **Armenian Evangelical Central High School** (Ashrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon) on June 30 revolved around a basic Gibranic idea: yesterday's dream informs tomorrow's undertakings. This was beautifully elaborated by Principal Maral Deyirmenjian in her words to the graduates. In his speech, Keynote Speaker Garo Hovannesian challenged the students to be good citizens at a time when all values fluctuate and materialism prevails. Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian's prayer directed all souls and minds to the Greatest Teacher, our Lord and Savior.



The **Armenian Evangelical Torosian Middle School** (Nor Amanos, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon) held the Graduation Ceremony of its Elementary and Intermediate sections on June 2. The School's Choir and the Dance Group presented a beautiful program. June 13 was the Graduation Ceremony of the KG section. The Program was full of songs, dances, poems and recitation of Bible verses, On the occasion of "Father's Day" the students presented their fathers with small souvenirs before receiving their diplomas.

On July 4, the **Armenian Evangelical Secondary School** (Anjar, Lebanon), held its Year End Program and Graduation Ceremony. This year's program was dedicated to the 145th Anniversary of Armenian Poet Hovhannes Tumanyan and Gomidas Vartabed, the great Armenian musicologist/composer priest. The Keynote Speaker was Vartug Balekjian, Principal of the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Nor Marash. She challenged the students to trust in God in this rapidly changing world.



# the Armenian Evangelical Schools in the Near East



This year, the **Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatikian Secondary School of Nor Marash** (Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon) celebrated its 80th Anniversary. On May 16, the High School section held its Commencement Ceremonies, when 19 students received their high school diplomas. The Keynote Speaker was Rev. Raffi Messerlian who emphasized the importance of the cooperation of family and school to prepare students to be good members of society. Principal Vartoug Balekjian challenged the students to look above, to God. The PreK and KG sections of the School held their Year End Program on June 6 and 13 respectively and the Elementary Section held its program on June 28.



The **Armenian Evangelical Gertmenian Elementary School** (Nor Hadjin, Beirut, Lebanon) held its Kindergarten and Elementary graduation ceremonies on June 13 and June 26 respectively. Ten students received their elementary school diplomas. The programs were enriched by songs, Bible verses, recitations and dances. Principal Sahag Dedeyan challenged the students "to look and listen" and wished them success in their lives.



The Commencement Ceremonies of the **Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School** (Aleppo, Syria) was held on July 12. Among those present was the Armenian Consul General in Aleppo H.E. Tigran Gevorgyan, clergy and representatives of organizations and foundations. Following the Syrian and Armenian National Anthems, Betty Yepremian, School Principal, greeted the guests. The students presented a beautiful program of songs, music, recitations, dramas and dances, which were dedicated to the memory of native Poet Hovhannes Tumanyan. The valedictorians addressed the guests in Armenian and in Arabic. Rev. Haroutune Selimian presented diplomas to the graduating students.



The Graduation Ceremony and Year End Program of the **Armenian Evangelical Kindergarten** (Athens, Greece) was held on June 9. After the Greek and Armenian National Anthems, Rev. Vicken Cholakian welcomed the guests, among whom was Mariam Harutyunyan, Attaché of Embassy of Armenia to Hellenic Republic and representatives of Armenian organizations and schools. The students presented a beautiful program dedicated to St. Mesrob, the inventor of the Armenian Alphabet. After the distribution of diplomas, the guests were invited to a reception.

# Stitched with Love

Provides Hats and Blankets for Newborns in Armenia



In 2013, Betty Cherkezian and Nancy Burdman came up with the idea of **Stitched with Love**, a program to provide newborn children in Armenia with much needed hats and blankets. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) liked the idea and adopted the program in December 2013.

Over 40,000 babies are born in Armenia each year, yet few Armenian hospitals distribute hats and blankets to newborns and none are distributed in small towns and villages.

Recognizing this need, **Stitched with Love** strives to provide knitted or crocheted hats and baby blankets to newborns in maternity hospitals throughout Armenia. To achieve this goal, **Stitched with Love** has reached out to Armenian communities in the United States and has received growing support from donors and knitters who wish to participate in this cause.

Patterns and designs are also welcome. Blankets should be a minimum of 30" x 30" in size. Newborn hats should be between 9" to 14" in diameter. If needed, a basic pattern is provided on the AMAA website. We request that you use acrylic worsted weight yarn.

The support provided from individuals, community organizations and church groups has been very encouraging and is making a real contribution to the infants in Armenia.

The AMAA is very grateful for your interest in supporting **Stitched with Love**. We envision a time when all newborn babies



Nancy Burdman and Betty Cherkezian.

in Armenia get to go home with their mothers, swaddled in a blanket and hat made by caring individuals like you!

For more information on how to participate and help in this effort, please contact the AMAA office at 201-265-2607, or visit [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) and click on the **Stitched with Love** tab. □

## AMAA Meets with World Vision Representatives

On Friday, June 6, David Aynejian, Armenian Missionary Association of America's Director of Finance, welcomed World Vision representatives Rev. David Snyder, Church Partnership Officer of World Vision Church Relations, and Dr. Artur Martirosyan, Coordinator of the Armenian Child Sponsorship Campaign, to AMAA's headquarters in Paramus, NJ. During the meeting, they discussed the need for supporting children in Armenia, and the various programs that are available. They also discussed the potential for future partnerships between the AMAA and World Vision. The AMAA applauds World Vision for its work in Armenia, and for sharing the love of God to all.

*L to R: Rev. David Snyder, David Aynejian and Dr. Artur Martirosyan.*





## Armenian Evangelical Union of North America 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

Nearly 300 children, youth, young adults and adults gathered in Fresno, California from June 26-29 at the University Square Hotel for the Biennial General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). The event was hosted by the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and its Senior Pastor, Rev. Ara Guekguezian.

26 Churches and Fellowships of the AEUNA were represented by their delegates, along with 46 active and retired pastors. The Assembly focused on the theme of "Forging Ahead for Christ" (Phil. 3:14) presented by the Rev. Dr. Donald Sunukjian, Professor of Preaching at Talbot School of Theology, and former Pastor of the Armenian Christian Fellowship in Costa Mesa, California.

The gathering included worship, discussions, seminars, fellowship and youth activities. Saturday's banquet featured Keynote Speaker Coach Edward Kezirian.

The Convention concluded with a Communion Worship Service in the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, during which the newly-elected Moderator and Vice-

Moderator, Rev. Ron Tovmassian and Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, brought the sermons in English and Armenian.

The AEUNA Board thanks the Pilgrim Church members, the Senior Pastor, Rev. Ara Guekguezian and the Task Force chaired by Ed and Roseann Saliba for their hospitality and hard work in service of our Lord Jesus! □



AMAA representatives and friends at AEUNA banquet.



# The 68th Annual Assembly of UAECNE Meets in KCHAG



Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian

**T**he 68th Annual Assembly of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAECNE) took place in the newly refurbished KCHAG campsite near Beirut, Lebanon under the theme "The Christian Witness of the Church in Trying Situations." The Assembly opened with a Worship Service on Sunday, July 6 during which the President of the UAECNE, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, delivered a sermon based on 2 Corinthians 4:10 which says: "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

Words of greeting were personally given by heads of partner churches in the Middle East and letters of greeting and solidarity had been received from overseas partners including the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The Assembly had not taken place in 2013 due to the war conditions in Syria, and that of 2012 had only been attended by a very limited number of delegates from Syria.

The Assembly sessions took place July 7-9 and focused mainly on the conditions of the churches of the UAECNE in numerous troubled lands, especially Syria and Iraq. The pastors and delegates who had come from Aleppo, Kessab, and Baghdad shared the news of their ministry and faithfulness but also the news and images of suffering, death, destruction and displacement. The ongoing relief work in Aleppo and the emergent needs of Kessab were highlighted. Reports on church life were also delivered by the delegates from

Iran, Australia and Lebanon. The focal role of the Armenian Evangelical Church in education and the financial difficulties of the schools in Lebanon, the necessity for newer forms of relief and social work, the upcoming centenary of the Armenian Genocide, the urgency of professional work with global partners, the essential need for ongoing spiritual faithfulness and renewal, and the urgency of preparing leadership for the future were all emphasized and discussed.

The business meetings of the Assembly included financial and narrative reports of the Central Committee, and various churches and organizations, while the Ordination Committee and Elections Committee recommendations were acted upon as needed.

As most of the churches of the UAECNE function and witness in countries (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Australia) most of which are undergoing safety worries, political turmoil, wars and economic hardships, the periods of worship, prayer and fellowship of the Assembly were of greatest significance. Some of the moments of the Assembly were emotional and distressing, but the overall atmosphere was one of renewal of hope in Jesus Christ, and the call for faithful ministry in these trying times and mutual support of the members of the Body of Christ was heard louder than tremors of fear. May God be glorified in all places and all times, especially today in the Middle East through the pivotal ministry of the UAECNE. □



Elsie Haig, a long time supporter of the AMAA, recently celebrated her 99th birthday. May God continue to bless Elsie with good health.

## AMAA Awards \$140,450 in College Scholarships To U.S. and Canada Students

This year, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) awarded \$140,450 in scholarships to 57 worthy students who attend colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

In addition, \$15,000 will be awarded to needy and qualified university students in Armenia. These scholarships range from \$200 to \$600 as the cost of higher education in Armenia is significantly less.

Since its inception, the AMAA has helped thousands of students from kindergarten to high school with tuition aid, and hundreds of college students with scholarships. Moreover, the AMAA provides financial aid to schools and institutions of higher education in the Near East, including Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology in Beirut.

The scholarships granted this year were provided from several AMAA scholarship funds established over the years to help students in need. Students may request applications from AMAA headquarters in Paramus, NJ beginning in January of each year. The deadline to submit applications for the 2015-2016 academic year is May 1, 2015. □

## A Pilgrimage for the Stein, Landes and Segel Families to Rome

*Sister Evdokia, the Mother General of the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception welcomed the extended Stein family and thanked them for their partnership in the success of their School. The Armenian Sisters Academy, established in 1967, started serving the Armenian Community by opening a School in Radnor, PA in 1975 by using the Stephen Philibosian house as its Campus.*



# Visitations and Meetings

## Ararat Evangelical Church Sandy, Utah

**T**he Ararat Armenian Evangelical Church in Sandy, Utah was established in 1996 with the help and leadership of the Armenian Brethren Church (AEBC) of Los Angeles and under the guidance of Rev. Dikran Shanlian. In 2000 the Church was received into the fellowship of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and in 2004 the Church officially joined the Union.

The Church currently holds its worship services in Armenian at the Bible Baptist Church in Sandy, Utah. It is supported by the AEUNA, the AMAA and AEBC. Pastor Gevork Paronyan has been the Church Minister since its beginning. Many of the Church members are Armenians who have migrated from Armenia. There are also Armenian families from Syria, Lebanon and Georgia. The average church attendance on Sundays is about 50 people. They have worship services, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, Armenian classes, prison ministry and sport activities. Being the only Armenian Church in the greater Salt Lake City area, the Pastor is often asked to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of over 200 Armenian families in the area.

From July 18-20, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Acting Minister to the Union, Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Pastor of AEBC, and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, visited the Church



to pray with them, meet with the leadership, worship and have fellowship. On July 19, the Church had a picnic retreat with Pastor Gevork leading the Worship Services and offering the prayers. The two speakers were Rev. Shanlian and Rev. Matossian. Over 60 people were in attendance. On Sunday July 20, Pastor Gevork led the Worship Services, Rev. Shanlian offered the prayers, Rev. Matossian brought the English meditation and Mr. Filian conveyed greetings from the AMAA and gave the Armenian message. Over 80 were in attendance. Following the Worship Service, there was food and fellowship.

We asked the Church members to pray for the AMAA and the AEUNA and we promised to pray for them. □

## AMAA and AEUNA Visit Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Las Vegas

**O**n Thursday, July 17, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Dikran Shanlian and Levon Filian visited the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Las Vegas, Nevada. Pastor Nerses Kopalyan welcomed the congregation and the guests to a special Worship Service which took place in the evening. He reported on the growth of the Church, which accepted and baptized nine members into the church family. Rev. Matossian and Rev. Shanlian conveyed their greetings. Mr. Filian brought greetings from the AMAA, gave the message and congratulated them for the increase in Church membership. Food and fellowship followed the Worship Service. □





Levon and Liliana Filian, Joe and Joyce Stein with Dr. Melvin and Sylvia Cheatam of Samaritan's Purse.



West Coast Executive Director visits with the Nahigians.  
L to R: Steven Nahigian, Harold Nahigian, Levon Filian and Daniel Nahigian.

**During his visit to New Jersey, Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director, attended the AMAA Board Meeting and visited with friends and donors of the Association.**



L to R: Ara and Vartoug Artinian, Arpi Messerlian, Levon Filian, Berjouhy and Maurice Gulessarian and Ida and Luther Gueyikian at the Gulessarian's home in NY.



Levon Filian visits with Kevork Fags.



Levon Filian visits with Richard and Samuel Hekemian.



On June 17, 2014, a banquet was held to honor His Eminence Hovnan Derderian, the Prelate of the Western Armenian Diocese, on the occasion of his receiving the Ellis Island Medal. Pictured L to R: Arsen and Hasmig Baran, Levon Filian, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Savey and Ralph Tufenkian, Elizabeth and Dr. Mihran Agbabian.

## Meetings and Visits in Fresno



Members of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church (Fresno) Missions Committee. Seated L to R: Doreen Fisher, Marie Avakian, Howard Atamian and Connie Chiljian-Vazquez with (standing) Levon Filian and Rev. Ara Guekguezian.



Meeting with FAPC Missions Committee. L to R: Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Pastor of First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA, Henry Keledjian, Arpi Keledjian, Rev. Mike Mekerdjian, Paul Koligian, Larry Shahpazian.



Levon Filian with Dr. Dennis and Mrs. Rita Shamlan in Fresno, CA.



Meeting with the Karians. L to R: Bernard Karian, Levon Filian, Marion Karian, Jeannette Moranda and Knar Guekguezian.



# The AMAA provides support to remodel and construct churches and centers worldwide.



*The future home of the AMAA Center in Gyumri, Armenia.*



*Armenian Evangelical Church of Alfortville, France.*



*The AMAA Center in Dilijan under construction.*



*House of Hope in Yerevan under construction.*



*Levon Filian visits with Belle Ashodian, long time AMAA supporter.*



*At a banquet honoring Ambassador Tatoul Altounian.  
L. to R: Levon Filian, Ambassador Tatoul Altounian and  
Rev. Joseph Matossian.*



## Boston Area Child and Orphan Care Committee to Hold "Spirit of Giving Gala" to Benefit Children in Crisis

The Boston Area Child and Orphan Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) announces "The Spirit of Giving Gala" - A Wine and Dine Fundraising Event, to take place on Friday, September 26, 2014, 7 pm at the Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley, MA. The Dinner will feature a Live Auction, Wine Pull and Bling Raffle which will be hosted by a Celebrity Auctioneer. Musical entertainment will be provided by The John Baboian Trio. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the AMAA to benefit children in crisis. Individuals or businesses wishing to donate goods or services, or those wishing to purchase tickets for the event may do so by contacting Dianne Chilingerian at 617.921.7619.

## Hackensack Rotary Club Awards Grant for Armenia Medical Needs



**O**n June 26, the Rotary Club of Hackensack, NJ awarded the AMAA a \$2,000 grant for urgent medical needs for children under the care of AMAA Child Sponsorship Program. As in prior years, this grant will help many children with various needs of medication, MRI observation, minor surgeries and urgent family care. Pictured is Mr. Serge Krikorian, Sergeant at Arms of Rotary Club, along with David Aynejian, AMAA Director of Finance. The AMAA thanks Mr. Krikorian for helping to raise these funds for our needy children in Armenia, and the Hackensack Rotary Club for its many years of support. □

## AMAA NEWS is going GREEN

The AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. Just send your e-mail address to [amaanews@amaa.org](mailto:amaanews@amaa.org) or call us at 201.265.2607 and we will send you a copy of the AMAA NEWS via e-mail as soon as it is available, without waiting for publication. Thank you for helping the AMAA go GREEN!

## Արուտեակ Մայրիկ Սողոմոնեան

Արուտեակ մայրիկը ծնած է Կիլիկիոյ Մարաշ քաղաքին գումարել թաղամասին մէջ 1918-ին, Աւետիս եւ Ովսաննա Աւետիսեաններու յարկին տակ:

Փոքրիկն Արուտեակ հազի 2-3 տարեկան, մայրը ձիաքաց կարգ մը կը կարգադրէ, որպէսզի Մարաշ՝ իրենց պատենական օճախն իր երկու աղջկներուն՝ Սիրանուշի եւ Արուտեակի հետ գաղթէն Հալէպ: Զքաւորութեան պատճառով զինք կը դրկեն Լիբանանի Շմլանի Որբանոցը, ուր ան կը մնայ չորս տարիներ:

1934-ին Արուտեակ կ'ամուսնանայ Աւետիս Սողոմոնեանի հետ: Աստուած զիրենք կ'օրինէ 5 զաւակներով, 14 թռութեռով եւ 28 ծոռներով:

Դեկտեմբեր 1971-ին կը հաստատուին Սիսնի, Աւստրալիա եւ միանան Սիսնի Հայ Աւետարանական

Եկեղեցին: 1972-ին Արուտեակ կը կորսնցնէ իր սիրալիք կողակիցը: Իր մահուրը 42 օրեր առաջ Արուտեակ Մայրիկին կը շնորհնուի Մայրենի Դեսպան Մետալը:

Արուտեակ մայրիկը շատ կապուած էր իր սիրելի Փրկչին՝ Տէր Յիսուսին: Կիրակի 25 Մայիս 2014-ին երեկոյեան իր բնակարանին մէջ Տէրը իր քով կը կանչէ իր հաւատարիմ աղախնինը:

«Երանելի են այն մեուելերը որոնք Տէրոջմով կը նօշեն» (Յայտ. 14. 13):

Սիրելի մայրիկ՝ Տէրոջ քեզի յանձնած մայրական բոլոր պարտականութիւնները հաւատարիմ կատարեցիր երկրատր կեանքիդ ընթացքին, հիմա պաշտելի Փրկչին բաղձակի ներկայութիւնը վայելէ անյագօրէն: Կարօ Սողոմոնեան



# Հաւատարմութիւն Աստուծոյ

## Առաքելութեան Մէջ

**Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան 95-ամեակին առիթով**

**Ի**րայատուկ հոգեկան գոհունակութիւն է Աստուծոյ ժողովուրդին համար Աստուծոյ առաքելութեան ընդհանուր ծրագրին մէջ ծառայութեան մաս մը բերել:

Ի՞նչ է Աստուծոյ առաքելութիւնը:

Աստուած իր անսահման իմաստութիւնով եւ գերմարդկային կարողութեամբ ստեղծեց երկինքն ու երկիրը, անջրպետն ու մոլորակները, ընութիւնն ու անասունները, ինչպէս նաև մարդը՝ ստեղծագործութեան թագը, իր պատկերին պէս: Երբ մարդը իր հպարտութիւնով եւ անհնազանդութիւնով ապստամբեցաւ իր Արարչին, մեղքով անկումի եւ դատապարտութեան մատնուեցաւ, Աստուած իր յաւիտենական սիրով, անհուն ողորմութիւնով եւ հիանալի շնորհքով որոշեց փրկել իր ստեղծած մարդը եւ տուաւ իր Միածին Որդին՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսը, որպէսզի ամէն Անոր հաւատացող չկորսուի, հապա յաւիտենական կեանք ունենայ:

Աստուած իր այս գլխաւոր առաքելութիւնը յաջողութեամբ ամբողջացնելու համար դրկեց նաև իր Սուրբ Հոգին, որպէսզի մարդ արարածին խոնարհութիւն տայ ինքինքն նանշնալու եւ իմաստութիւն տայ իր Արարիչը ընդունելու:

Աստուած իր առաքելութեան գործին մէջ նաև վստահեցաւ իրեն հետեւող, իրեն հաւատացող եւ իրեն ծառայող մարդոց, ինչպէս՝ օրինակ, Արքահամին Հին Կտակարանին մէջ եւ իր առաքեալներուն՝ նոր կտակարանին մէջ: Աստուած իիմնեց իր եկեղեցին եւ անոր տուաւ իրայտուկ պատասխանատուութիւն՝ իր առաքելութեան մէջ բաժին վերցնելու, որ ամէն այդ պատասխանատուութիւն կրող անձին համար նաև իրայտուկ օրինութիւն է:

Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին եւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը հնազանդելով երկնային տեսիլքին եւ Աստուծոյ առաքելութեան մէջ ծառայութիւն բերելու սրբազն կոչումին, 95 տարիներ առաջ հիմնեց Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, որպէսզի Հայ ազգին, աշխարհացրիւ Հայ ժողովուրդին եւ մեր

դարաւոր եւ փառաւոր Հայրենիքին մէջ, Աստուծոյ փրկութեան ծրագրին մէջ մեր բաժինը բերենք:

Սրտանց կ'ողջունենք եւ կը գնահատենք Հայ Աւետարանչականի հիմնադիր առաջնորդները եւ իւրաքանչիւր նեցուկ կանգնող անհատը, իրենց անսակարկ ծառայութեան, օրինակելի կեանքին եւ սրբազն նուիրումին համար, որոնք 95 տարիներէ ի վեր կը զոհեն եւ կը զոհուին Հայ ժողովուրդը հաւատիքի առաջնորդելու, ընկերային ծառայութեան բոլոր միջոցներով, Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Բարի Լուրբ տարածելու եւ հայրենիքի վերազարքնումին ու բարօրութեան աշխատան բներուն մասնակցելու:

Այսօր, սփիւռքի այս ափերուն վրայ Աստուծոյ որքան փառք կու տանք, որ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը իր անձնակազմով եւ Վարչական Խորհուրդով կը շարունակէ օրինութիւն ըլլալ աւելի քան 23 երկիրներու մէջ գործունեայ Հայ համայնքներու մէջ, ինչպէս նաև աշխարհի տարբեր ցամաքամասերու մէջ աղետի մատնուած ժողովուրդներուն անխութիր:

Բարձր գնահատանք՝ Հայ Աւետարանչականի նպատակին նուիրուած իւրաքանչիւր անձնաւորութեան, որոնք իրենց բակները լայն քանալով կարելի կը դարձեն հասնելու կարիքաւորին եւ տառապողներուն, բարձր ուսումի կարելիութիւններ կը ստեղծեն նոր սերունդին տարբեր երկիրներու մէջ, որպէսզի անոնք ալ օրինուելով օրինութիւն ըլլան իրենց կարգին յաջորդ սերունդներուն եւ իրենց շրջանակներուն:

Բարձր գնահատանք՝ Հայ Աւետարանչականին: Աստուած ային շնորհներ՝ Հայրենիքի եւ Սփիւռքի մեր Հայ ժողովուրդին:

Ազատութիւն եւ խաղաղութիւն՝ մեր սիրելի Հայրենիքին, եւ Փառք՝ Աստուծոյ:

Քրիստոսի ջերմ սիրով՝  
Վեր. Մկրտիչ Մելքոնեան  
Հայ Աւետարանչականի Ժամանակաւոր  
Գործադիր Տնօրին

## Krikor Yeprad "Kay" Bedrosian

Krikor Bedrosian was a faithful servant leader of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA (FAPC) for more than six decades. He passed away on June 9, 2014 at the age of 78. A native of Fresno, Krikor grew up in Parlier and Fowler, where he became an active participant in the student government, literary, and athletic life of Fowler High School.



An honors graduate of California State University, Fresno, Krikor farmed table and wine grapes with his brothers Ernest and Kenneth. In 1969, he co-founded the National Raisin Company of Fowler with his older brother, Ernest, and a partner. Today the firm is the largest independent raisin processor in the world, packing dried fruit and snack products under the "Champion" name and independent labels. Krikor was actively involved with the Raisin Administrative Committee and California Raisin Advisory Board. In 2007, he and his brothers received the "Top Dog" award in the field of Agriculture from CSU Fresno.

At FAPC, Krikor was a devoted member and officer of the Christian Endeavor Society; served as a Men's Forum Officer, Trustee, Elder and Treasurer; and was a tireless member of the Second Phase Building Committee which oversaw the construction and dedication of the current sanctuary building which was constructed in 1976.

A longtime member and President of the Fowler Lions Club, Krikor was recognized as Fowler's Honored Pioneer in conjunction with the 2009 Fowler Fall Festival.

Krikor was preceded in death by his brother, Ernest Armen Bedrosian; and granddaughter, Caitlyn Bedrosian. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, the former Katherine Basmajian; daughter Linda Kay Abdulian and her husband, John Abdulian, M.D.; son Michael Krikor Bedrosian and his wife, Stephanie; daughter Jane Elizabeth Asmar and her husband, Dr. Scott Asmar; grandchildren Alexis and Daniel Abdulian; Ryan, Michael and Matthew Bedrosian; and Alexander and Alexa Jane Asmar. He is also survived by his sister, Clara Bousian; brother Kenneth Bedrosian and his wife, Jane; sister-in-law Helen Caprelian and her husband, Marvin; sister-in-law Roxie Haritiunian and her husband, Levon; brother-in-law Richard Basmajian and his wife, Pamela; and many dear nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews in the extended Bedrosian and Basmajian families.

Funeral services were held on June 14 at FAPC followed by a memorial luncheon. □

## Arousiak Emirzian

Arousiak Emirzian, of Los Angeles CA, passed away on July 24, 2014 at her home. She was 96.



Born in Salt, Jordan, she was the daughter of Heripsime and Artin Tanaxhian. Her family fled the country when she was two weeks old and settled in Jerusalem at the Armenian convent. They later relocated to Beirut where she attended Armenian School. Five years later, the family moved back to Jerusalem where she attended the Marusef Catholic School. She also began to learn sewing.

In 1936 Arousiak met Alexan Emirzian and they were married in June 1937. Following her marriage and raising five daughters, the family migrated to the United States in 1957. She helped her husband and contributed to supporting the family with her self-taught talent of sewing by working for the famous designer Mr. Blackwell until she retired in 1975.

Arousiak was preceded in death by her husband Alexan in 1986 just before their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is survived by her daughters Arshalois (Charlie) Andrikian, Anahid (Dickran) Bouchakian, Seta (Yerchan) Maldjian, Silva (Ruppen) Akoubian, and Roupina (Johnny) Nalbandian, 11 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and her brother Antranig (Mary) and family.

A deeply religious woman who read the Bible every morning and evening, Arousiak was the Matriarch of the family and the glue that kept the family together.

The funeral service was held in Forest Lawn Cemetery of Hollywood Hills, followed by a memorial luncheon at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the AMAA for Child and Orphan Care Programs. □

## Norita Joy Erickson

Born on April 28, 1951, Norita Joy Erickson passed on to be with her Father in heaven on January 26, 2014 at the age of 62 in Ankara, Turkey. She was a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jirair N. Sarian, who during their lifetimes were longtime supporters of the AMAA.



Norita's Armenian Evangelical roots run deep. Her paternal grandparents were Rev. Nerses and Nouritsa Sarian, who as a young pastor couple with the Lord's guidance, were able to guide their small congregation's escape of the Armenian Genocide from Turkey to Syria establishing the Bethel Church in

Aleppo, and then finally serving the Armenian Evangelicals in Damascus. Starting in the early 1970s, the family members emigrated to the United States to become citizens. The trauma experienced by her family members is etched in the memory of the succeeding generations but, as Norita wrote in her memoir, *Cry Out*, "God changed my heart of stone and gave me a love for Turkish peoples."

Norita and Kenneth moved to Turkey in 1987, and in 1998 she founded the non-profit organization Kardelen to provide material, emotional and spiritual support to families of disabled children and young adults, in particular to those most marginalized by poverty and the social stigma associated with disability. Since its inception she led Kardelen as its Executive Director. Her life epitomized the ability to have unconditional love, revealed to her by the Holy Spirit.

For many years Norita and Ken devoted themselves to various lay leadership roles in Kurtulus Church, Ankara, including counseling, teaching, music, and charitable works. She also served on the board of the Ankara International Charities Committee, managed a bookstore, as a consultant to a children's publishing house and as a counselor at a national children's camp.

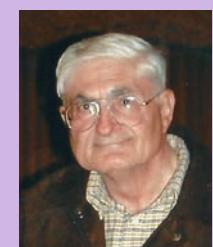
Norita earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and History at Westmont College in 1973, and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature at UCLA in 1977. She taught English in Los Angeles, CA and in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Norita dedicated her life to the Lord and lived it fully to glorify Him by serving and caring for the least of these.

Norita is survived by Kenneth Albin Erickson, the love of her life and husband of 39 years, by her daughter Katrina Noelle Chamberlin, son Michael Joseph Erickson, son-in-law Luke Chamberlin, her sister June Bostick, brother John Sarian and countless friends from all corners of the world. □

## Armen Hanessian

Armen Hanessian passed away on July 21, 2014 in Los Angeles, CA. He was 80.



Armen, the son of Avedis and Armaven Hanessian, was born on February 3, 1934 in Nor Marash, Bourdj Hamoud, Lebanon. He attended the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Nor Marash, and later joined his father in the family business of carpentry.

Armen was an avid reader. He used to read most of the Armenian newspapers and monthly papers that were published in Beirut, Lebanon.



In 1950 he met the late Armenian writer Boghos Snabian, who encouraged him to write short stories in the monthly PAKIN magazine. He spent most of his free time in writing articles and reading books. He is the author of five Armenian books, *People of the Same Neighborhood, Second Act, Epistle of Genesis* and *The Birth of the Armenian People*, using his pen name as Nerses Virabian.

In 1969, Armen moved to California, where he continued to do carpentry for a living, and simultaneously kept his passion for reading and writing. He often went to public libraries to research the origins of the Armenian people. His treasures were his books. His patriotic spirit was reflected in manifold ways, expressing his joy and his concerns specifically regarding the future of Karabagh.

Armen is survived by his brothers Nevdon, Zaven and Berj, sisters Claris, Araxy and Hilda and their families.

A funeral service was held on July 25, at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA, officiated by Rev. Berdj Djambazian. The family requests that memorial donations be made to the Alumni Association of the Armenian Evangelical Shamlan Tatikian High School of Nor Marash. □

## Rev. Vincent J. Kumjian

Rev. Vincent J. Kumjian of Troy, NY, passed away on June 21, 2014 after a brief illness. He was 90.



Born in Astoria, Queens, NY, he was the only child of Nazareth and Mary Terzian Kumjian. He served in the US Army earning several medals including the "Order of Lafayette" in the liberation of France.

During his lifetime, Rev. Kumjian had three career changes: President of Nassau Renewal Parts Inc. from 1955-71; Ordained Minister from 1975-82 and 1996-2010; and President of Northway Realty Inc. from 1982-95. As an ordained minister he has served several churches in New York and Massachusetts, including the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church of Troy, NY and the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA. He attended Fordham University School of Education and graduated from SUNY, Albany, NY, with a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies from Empire State College. He took advanced courses from Boston University School of Theology and graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He earned two Certificates from the Capital District Psychiatric Center of New York in Pastoral Counseling.

Rev. Kumjian has served as the President of Rotary Club of Southold, NY, Chairman of the

Narcotics Guidance Council of Tannersville, Hunter and Prattsville, NY, Chaplain of the Oasis Lodge Order of Free Masons, Catskill, NY, Convener of Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake Ministerial Association, Director of the Board of the Council Meadows Senior Housing Authority in Glenville, NY and Administrator of the Charlton Food Pantry. He also gave counseling courses at Samaritan Hospital, Troy, NY and courses regarding street gangs and substance abuse victims at Conifer Park in Burnt Hills, NY.

His theme in later life was "laughter is good medicine" and he will be remembered for his leadership, sense of humor and for his Sunday sermon "take home" messages.

He is survived by his beloved wife Mary (Mimi) Kazelian Kumjian and his sons, Lawrence (Donna) and Claude (Debbie), his two grandchildren, Andrew and Dr. Matthew Kumjian, and niece, Karen Mardigian (M. Burke) Coleman and their children.

A funeral service was held June 27 at the Loudonville Presbyterian Church in Loudonville, NY. The family requests that donations may be made in his memory to the AMAA. □

## Vehanoush Nazarian

Vehanoush Berejiklian Nazarian was born on June 9, 1920 in Aintab, Turkey to Haroutune Berejiklian and Saliha Jebejian. She was the youngest and last surviving of four Berejiklian siblings, Yevnige Kounakjian, Alberta Yazejian and Hovhannes Berejiklian. She passed away on June 13, 2014 in San Jose, CA at the age of 94.



In 1921, the Berejiklian family settled in Aleppo, Syria, where her father worked in translation and her mother became the director of an orphanage serving 1,000 Armenian children orphaned by the Genocide. In 1933, the family moved to Beirut. In 1937 she graduated from the Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut and in 1940, she received her nursing diploma and became the head nurse in the pediatric department at Hospital of American University of Beirut. From 1940-50, she was sent to Tel Aviv and to Anjar to help fight the malaria epidemics.

In 1950 she married Dr. Haroutune Nazarian and moved to Aleppo Syria. She became very active in the community. She taught Health and Infant Child Care in the Aleppo American College for Girls. She was active in the Armenian Evangelical Martyrs Church and in the Ladies Circle, which she chaired for many years. She also was a founding member of the United Armenian Evangelical Women in Aleppo, and had the vision to start annual con-

ferences in Kessab. She served on the Executive Committee of the Armenian Senior's Home and the Howard Karageuzian Foundation.

In 1989, the Nazarian family moved to San Jose CA, to join their children and their families and became members of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA.

She is survived by her daughters Perla (Mark) Kotoyan, Alidz, and Nora (Rafi) Balabanian and son Hagop (Taleen), grandchildren Raffi, Aren (Alina), Jenny, Ari, Alexa and Aram and great-granddaughter Talar.

The family requests that donations be made in her memory to Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, and Nahadagats Armenian Evangelical (Martyrs) Church in Aleppo, Syria. □

## Vartan Sahagian

Vartan Sahagian passed away on April 5, 2014 in Paramus, NJ. He was 81.



Vartan was born and raised in the Old City of Jerusalem, where he developed a strong Christian faith which led his personal and professional endeavors. He lived in Bergen County, NJ since immigrating to the United States in 1967. He was a resident of Paramus since 1979.

He worked for more than 40 years for the American Bible Society, first in Jerusalem from 1955-67 as Executive Secretary, and then at the New York City headquarters from 1967-95. He retired in 1995 as an officer of the Society, having served in numerous management capacities in copyright and licensing. He faithfully served the Society as he strongly believed in its mission: to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so that all people may experience its life-changing message.

He was a devout member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ for more than 40 years, having served as a choir member, elder and most recently as the leader of the church's seniors group. He also supported and believed strongly in the mission of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Vartan was proud to be an American citizen, never missing a parade on Memorial or Independence Days.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Lucy, daughter, Grace Mason and husband Richard of Chandler, AZ; son James Sahagian and wife Maral of Airmont, NY; grandchildren Lauren, Steven and Thomas Mason and Ari Vartan and Seta Sahagian.

A funeral service was held on April 11 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus. The family requests that memorial donations be made to the AMAA for Syria Relief. □



**Armenian Missionary Association of America**  
**31 West Century Road**  
**Paramus, NJ 07652**

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# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Evening  
November 15, 2014  
AMAA-Haigazian University  
Joint Celebratory Banquet  
In Honor of  
Dr. Mihran Agbabian  
and  
George Phillips, Sr., Esq.

*The Beverly Hills Hotel*